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ABSTRACT

African American males in the United States have been killing each other at alarming rates. Gang members commit violent crimes at a rate three times that of nongang delinquents, and gang-involved youths are more frequently victimized by violent crime than the rest of the general population. This volume offers insight into the reasons youths are attracted to gangs, and ways to prevent, confront, and reverse gang mentality. Section 1, "Understanding Gang Mentality: The Beginning of a Gang Intervention Program," provides a case for intervention programs inside correctional institutions, reasons youths are attracted to gangs, insight into the mind-set of gang membership and gang dynamics, and a lexicon of the symbols and signals of gang culture. Section 2, "Breaking through Gang Mentality: Getting a Gang Intervention Program Underway," offers strategies and resources for creating successful gang intervention programs. Section 3, "Starting a New Program," provides questions and answers for administrators, a "Blueprint for a Successful Gang-suppression Program in Detention and Correctional Institutions," and information on finding support for and evaluating programs. It ends with a chapter on other minorities in gangs. Information on the Oregon Youth Authority testimonials, and a glossary are appended. (EMK)

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